

(16) CIA

On Coordination Call:

	DI/ALAF			
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3/12/95	DI/ALAF			
DATE	UNIT	PRODUCTION OFFICER	TAN	GREEN
Guatemala:		Updating the Bamaca Case		No
COUNTRY		SUBJECT		GRAPHIC

government officials are pressing senior military leaders to reinvigorate their review of the record on Efraim Bamaca, the guerrilla leader who disappeared following a confrontation with Army troops in March 1992. Some human rights activists continue to allege that Bamaca remains alive and is being held in clandestine military prisons.

-- The Army continues to claim that it has no secret prisons, and that Bamaca died of a self-inflicted wound in March 1992 and was buried in an unmarked grave.

-- the guerrillas have been using the Bamaca case-- involving one of some 40,000 "disappearances" during the 34-year insurgency--to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Guatemala. claims they have no information about the rebel leader's fate but believe he is dead.

Bamaca probably was captured alive and detained by the Guatemalan Army.

Government pressure for a new investigation is probably a response to increasing international pressure for Guatemala to improve its human rights record. Several previous investigations have failed to reveal Bamaca's fate, however, and the Army is unlikely to abandon its claim that he died in March 1992.

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